

Braille Library and Transcribing Services Inc.

6501 Watts Rd.; Suite 149

Madison, WI 53719

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2024

1. Call to order: President Patricia Herrling called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. All members were present: Sandra Adams, Dorothy Brar, Lori Hanson, Melody Moore, Sue Nelson, Constance Risjord and Joan Sholdt. Staff present: Aaron Konkol and Sue Danz. Introductions were made for the benefit of Lori, our new treasurer. There was no president's report.
2. Minutes: A motion was made and seconded and passed to approve the minutes of June 13, 2024.
3. Treasurer's Report: Current assets: Checking Account, \$22,498.72; Money Market, \$5,828.16; Mutual Funds, \$101,361.83; Total, \$129,687.91.
Lori is consulting with Aaron and Sue Nelson to familiarize herself with the job duties of treasurer.
4. Office Manager's Report: Aaron has finished updating our website. He has submitted the report to WisPac and applied for a grant for this year.
A new label maker was needed for the office and was ordered.
5. Braille Coordinator's Report: Transcription for clients is keeping the office staff and braillists busy. Two transcribers from Minnesota contacted Sue concerning joining our group; however they did not follow up after the inquiry. Many groups across the country are closing due to fewer transcribers and not enough interest from blind consumers.
There is a need for new knit and crochet pattern books.
6. Committee Reports
Education
Braille Conversations will begin again on September 9 led by Lindy Walton over Zoom.
Thirteen members have signed up for these sessions and will meet bi-weekly or monthly.

A new transcriber's class will begin in September with Patricia teaching it. Debbie Hanson has agreed to grade the assignments with Connie as a consultant. Connie will also recruit outside

individuals to speak to the group. Fliers will be distributed to libraries and other appropriate locations. A few people have already expressed an interest to attend the class.

A print / braille book workshop will be held for any interested transcribers in two separate sessions.

Fund Raising: Community and member contributions total \$2,000.00 each.

It was suggested that Diane Balwig should be contacted for her company allocates money in the community.

Library: Our clientele has stayed stable at 150.

Newsletter / Publication: Articles for "Dear Pearl" should be sent to Sue Danz in September for distribution in early October. The usual format and article submission should be followed. An announcement for the Fall luncheon should be included.

7. Old Business: No old business.
8. New Business: The Fall luncheon will be held at Vintage Brewery on Whitney Way on October 29, 2024 at 11:30AM. There are some rooms available there. Members and guests will select items from the menu and pay for their lunches.
A discussion was held regarding the Braille 2000 licenses (keys). The following policy was adopted:

If a student has not completed their manuscript within six months of completion of the class BLTS has the option of terminating their license. Also:

If a member has not met the requirements of an active member, BLTS has the option of terminating the use of the license. Joan made a motion and Dorothy Brar seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. This policy will be published in the Redbook.

Patricia will speak with a student of the previous class to inform him that if he does not resubmit his manuscript within the next three months, his license will be terminated.

It was decided not to pursue the purchase of BLTS.org.

The discussion concerning information regarding legacy was deferred to our October meeting.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM.

Submitted by,

Karen Perzentka, Secretary

